

"Why God's Ordained Authority is so Important" Part 2 - 1 Corinthians 11:4-7 – September 27th, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part two of a new series we began last week titled, "Why God's Ordained Authority is so Important."
- While the passage before us today has personal application as it relates to God's ordained authority, it's not about hair length.
- The reason being is that the length of ones hair and the covering over ones head does not have culture implications in our day.
- Sadly, passages like the one we have here in 1 Corinthians 11, has been the source of much confusion and misunderstanding.
- Namely, long hair on a man being shameful. The problem with forcing this interpretation on the text is the man's Nazirite vow.
- Samson is probably the most well known for his long hair as one who had taken the Nazirite vow, but there were others as well.
- Actually the Apostle Paul himself is believed to have taken the Nazirite vow in the book of Acts, while he was staying in Corinth.
- The point being is while the cultural dynamics of hair length or covering do not apply to us today, the principle certainly does.
- This because, the principle of hair length and covering was seen as a symbol of respecting the authority that one was under.
- I hope that having this understanding will help us navigate our way through this chapter as difficult as it may be to understand.
- In so doing, I hope to, by way of a personal application, answer the question of, why God's ordained authority is so important?
- We found the first reason last week in verses 1-3, which is that of how Jesus exemplified submission to the Father's authority.

1. Jesus exemplified submission to the Father's authority (Verses 1-3)

- Paul says follow my example as I follow Christ - the head of man is Christ, the head of woman is man the head of Christ is God.

2. When we disrespect authority we dishonor God (Verses 4-7)

Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head it is the same as having her head shaved. For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

- v4-5 Paul contrasts men and women who pray or prophesy with their heads either covered or uncovered dishonoring their head.
- v6 He says if a woman doesn't cover her head, she might as well shave her head, but if it's a disgrace, then she should cover it.
- v7 He then says that a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

- It's important to understand a woman who uncovered her head in that day was deliberately dishonoring the man as her head.
- I suppose in some ways it could be seen symbolically in our day as a woman who deliberately doesn't wear her wedding ring.
- Just as a ring symbolizes a woman married to a man, so too was the covering a symbol of being under the authority of a man.
- This explains why Paul would say that it's a dishonor for a man to pray under a head covering, and a woman to pray without it.
- In other words, as a covering was seen as a symbol of respect for the authority of man, so too would this be a dishonor to man.
- As such this would in effect dishonor God as well by virtue of the fact that this is God's ordained structure of authority over man.

Adam Clarke - "As the man is, ...the representative of the glory and perfections of God, ...so the woman is, in the house and family, the representative of the power and authority of the man."

Another commentator said it best this way, "The woman is the glory—or literally, the outshining, the reflection—of the man. Husband, if you think your wife is out to lunch or off the wall, if you're disappointed in her, tired of her, down on her, or mad at her—guess what. She is simply reflecting you."

- Men, you'll forgive me for spending a little bit of time on this, but the fact of the matter is, the wife is a reflection of the husband.
- Like a thermostat sets the temperature according to the thermometer, so too does the woman set the temperature to the man.
- If a man is submitted to the authority of Jesus Christ as his head, then the woman will feel safe and protected to submit to him.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest this applies to a church as well in the sense that the leadership must be submitted to God.
- This is what Paul was saying to the church in Corinth in verse 1, where he tells them to follow his example as he follows Christ.
- It's been said that the church takes on the personality of the pastor, but I would submit that it also takes on the character too.

1 Timothy 3:1-14 (NIV) — 1 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 8 In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. 12 A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.